Disinvestment of NALCO

756. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the disinvestment of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO);

(b) if so, the reasons for its disinvestment;

(c) the private companies which are bidding in the disinvestment; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to disinvest in NALCO has been taken in pursuance of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and in line with the policy of the Government that the Government, in generality of cases, will reduce its equity to 26 per cent or below in Central Public Sector Undertakings operating in non-strategic areas.

(c) Bids have not been invited so far.

(d) Does not arise.

News-item 'Disinvestment in Mid-Air crash'

757. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Disinvestment in mid-air-crash, which appeared in the Telegraph, dated the 2nd September, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to clear the road blocks obstructing the programme of disinvestment in respect of the companies mentioned in the news-item?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tata Sons Limited, the consortium partner of SIA, have intimated that in the light of SIA's decision to withdraw from the consortium, they are assessing